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Quercus alba

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Wes Whiteside—Species Information Sheet

I. Nomenclature

Family: Fagaceae

Genus Species(Authority): *Quercus alba* L.

Subspecies/Variety(Authority):

Cultivar:

Common Name: White oak

II. Origin (country and/or habitat)

Native/Rare Native/Uncommon Old World/Rare Old
World/Uncommon

Quercus alba has a natural range from Texas, north through Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, and Ontario, east throughout the rest of the United States, including Ontario and Quebec in Canada (USDA 2011).

III. Habit

Tree

Shrub

Vine

Herbaceous Annual
Perennial

Herbaceous Biennial

Herbaceous

Flowering Season: Late April- early May

Flower Color: Yellowish green catkins

Fruit Type: Nut

IV. Source of Plant Material

From where or whom obtained and when: The Whiteside Garden has three plants of *Quercus alba*. The largest and oldest located behind the garage was collected by Dr. Whiteside as a very small seedling from near Lakeview Park at Charleston Lake, Charleston, Illinois, around 1964 and was one of the first that were planted on the property. Another along the south fence is a seedling from the original plant that popped up around 1990. The plant located on the eastern portion of the garden near the field came as a germinating seed found in Baber Woods in Edgar County in spring 1970.

Propagule Material:

	Seed	Vegetative	Whole Plant
Details:			

Availability: Not as commonly available from nurseries as it is in the wild

V. Cultural

Special Soil Type: Average with good drainage

Soil Moisture: Wet Mesic Dry Other

VI. Additional Comments

Quercus alba has a reputation for being difficult to transplant and slow growing, being best started as an early seedling or germinating acorn. It is the state tree of Illinois and offers some of the best fall color of the native oaks.

VII. Literature Cited

USDA, NRCS. 2011. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov>, 20 October 2011).
National Plant Data Team, Greensboro, NC 27401-4901 USA.

